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March 2, 1978

Congressman David Obey
2349 Rayburn Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Attention: Lyle Stitt.

Dear Congressman Obey:

As you are perhaps aware from local newspaper articles and television reports if not from citizen comment to you and your staff from the scores of speeches I give in this region the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is actively engaged in building an archive relating to the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. which will be devoted to the study of the integrity of basic American institutions. This will be done under my direction and rest on my scholarship.

To this end copies of all documents relating to the two assassinations and their investigations are an essential aspect of the archive. The expenses however are exceptional and far beyond the limited means of the public universities of the state.

Would you and your staff assist me to build a research archive of national stature here in Stevens Point by obtaining for me copies of the documents released by the Secret Service, the Central Intelligence Agencies, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation? These have been released in various "batches." For example the Secret Service recently released copies of their files and the CIA is to release another "batch" soon.

It would seem to me that the laws underpinning the release of such material make provisions for the supplying of copies to serious, known, and public scholars. Tracing back through our history as a nation there is ample illustration of this principle of making certain types of documents publically available through their depository in special archives. I think immediately of military, executive, Five Nations of Indians, scientific research centers, field forestry, etc.

At the same time the location of the documents in the various offices and basements of the several agencies involved does not meet the full requirements of citizen inquiry into a most controversial subject. The deposit of these copies in a center here would assist the several agencies to meet their public obligations in the subject and also be of aid to Congressmen who frequently must meet the often irresponsible charges of non-action or coverup or even worse that assail the ears and dull the eyes.

Department of History • (715) 346-2334

At Stevens Point the documents would be given responsible treatment, with citizen, scholar, and student access provided. Finding aids, bibliographies, and other tools of use would be developed.

The material has a limitation placed upon it; there is only a finite amount of documents connected with the subject and it is not a continuing thing. In this way it differs from the Congressional document set and many other federal and state series.

Sincerely

David R. Wrone

David R. Wrone
Professor